

Gentiana Andrewsii forma *albiflora* Britton in Allegheny
National Forest, Pennsylvania

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Tionesta Creek which lies largely in Forest County enters the Allegheny River at the southwest corner of the Allegheny National Forest. The river forms the western boundary of the area. The creek flows, in general, parallel to the river and distant some eight to ten miles until it reaches the village of Nebraska where it turns west to flow into the river. Between the two valleys is territory reaching elevations around eight hundred feet above the streams. The entire area was at one time covered with forest, largely coniferous, and is now growing up to second-growth hardwoods except for small areas on the hill-tops and along the streams that are under cultivation or occupied by villages.

On September 6, 1931, Adam M. Barker and the writer found a single specimen of *Gentiana Andrewsii* forma *albiflora* Britton growing along the bank of Tionesta creek at Nebraska near a stand of the typical blue form. The specimen was collected as an oddity, one of those white forms of blue flowers that occasionally occur. On September 1, 2 and 3, 1934 we made another collecting trip to the Allegheny National Forest and visited many locations in the region. Along Blue Jay Run, a tributary to Tionesta Creek, at a point two miles from its mouth where Watsonstown Run comes in, we again collected f. *albiflora* growing close to the water's edge in territory where the second growth forest is well established.

On the following day we found a stand of it at the side of the road upstream from Brookston where the Tionesta Creek valley widens and provides a flat area devoted to farming and pasture around the village.

From Barnes, downstream to Nebraska the valley is fairly narrow. Through this section a highway runs along the narrow area between the creek and the forested hillside. For a distance of several miles either side of Lynch, which is located at the junction of Blue Jay Run with Tionesta Creek, we saw f. *albiflora* growing abundantly in scattered stations along the road.

Exploration of the territory around a number of the stations

visited to determine if the white flowers were of occasional occurrence as in 1931 at Nebraska, failed in each instance to locate plants producing blue flowers. Along streams tributary to the Allegheny River on the other side of the divide we found blue flowers but failed to find the white.

The indication is that f. *albiflora* is well established in the Tionesta Creek Valley in Forest County and that, in this region, it reproduces regularly with white or cream-colored flowers without reversion to the blue form which is typical for the species, *G. Andrewsii*.

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